

CLAIMS:

1. An information distributing method of distributing information via a communication path to an information user unit, comprising the steps of:

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receiving a first request from the information user unit receiving first information from a first information providing resource;

transmitting a predetermined program code to the information user unit according to the first request;

receiving a second request to receive from a second information providing resource second information quoted in the first information and transmitted from the information user unit using the program code; and

determining in response to the second request whether or not the second request is allowed according to at least identifying information (URI) included in the second request.

2. An information distributing method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining step determines whether or not the second request is allowed according to a database including a correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information providing resource and an identifier of first information in the first information providing source.

3. An information distributing method according to Claim 2, wherein:

the program code has a password;

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the password; and

the determining step further includes a step of collating the password in the second request received from the information user unit with a valid password.

4. An information distributing method according to Claim 3, wherein the determining step allows the second request when the password in the second request is a valid password and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

5. An information distributing method according to Claim 4, further including a step of frequently changing a password in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

6. An information distributing method according to Claim 2, wherein:

the program code includes an encryption key to encrypt the second request;

the second request includes information obtained by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second information according to the encryption key; and

the determining step further includes a step of verifying to determine whether or not the second request can be decoded.

7. An information distributing method according to Claim 6, wherein the determining step allows the second request when the second request can be decoded and the

identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

8. An information distributing method according to Claim 7, further including a step of frequently changing an encryption key in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

9. An information distributing method according to Claim 1, wherein when the first information providing resource is a first server and the second information providing resource is a second server,

the first server distributes the first information via the communication path to a client as the information user unit and

the second server distributes, if the determining step allows the second request, the second information quoted in the first information to the client.

10. An information distributing method according to Claim 9, wherein the second server conducts the transmission of the program code and the determining step of allowance of the second request by a Web server program.

11. An information distributing method according to Claim 1, wherein when the first information providing resource and the second information providing resource are implemented by a common server,

said server distributes the first information via the communication path to a client as the information user unit and distributes, if the determining step allows the second request, the second information quoted in the

first information to the client.

12. An information distributing apparatus for distributing information via a communication path to an information user unit, comprising:

means for sending a predetermined program code to the information user unit according to a first request from the information user unit receiving first information from a first information providing resource and

means for determining, in response to a second request to receive from a second information providing resource second information quoted in the first information and transmitted from the information user unit using the program code, whether or not the second request is allowed according to identifying information (URI) at least included in the second request.

13. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the determining means includes a database including a correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information providing resource and an identifier of first information in the first information providing source.

14. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein:

the program code has a password;

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the password; and

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the determining means further includes means for collating the password in the second request received from the information user unit with a valid password.

15. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the determining means allows the second request when the password in the second request is a valid password and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

16. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 15, further including means for frequently changing a password in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

17. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 16, further including a database for storing therein certain number of previous passwords and a current password.

18. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein:

the program code includes an encryption key to
encrypt the second request;

the second request includes information obtained by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second information according to the encryption key; and

the determining means further includes means for verifying to determine whether or not the second request can be decoded.

19. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the determining means allows the

second request when the second request can be decoded and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

20. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 19, further including means for frequently changing an encryption key in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

21. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 20, further including a database for storing therein a certain number of previous encryption keys and a current encryption key.

22. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein when the first information providing resource is an external first server and the second information providing resource is a second server,

the first server distributes the first information via the communication path to a client as the information user unit and

the second server distributes, if the determining step allows the second request, the second information quoted in the first information to the client.

23. An information distributing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the second server conducts the transmission of the program code and the determining step of allowance of the second request by a Web server program.

24. An information distributing apparatus in accordance with Claim 12, including a common server having the first information providing resource the second

information providing resource.

25. An information receiving method for an information user unit to receive information via a communication path from an information providing unit, comprising the steps of:

receiving first information from a first information providing resource;

issuing a request to a second information providing resource for a program code;

receiving a program code from the second information providing resource;

generating, according to the program code, a second request to receive from the second information providing source second information quoted in the first information and transmitted the second request to the second information providing source; and

receiving from the second information providing resource the second information for which quotation is allowed by the second information providing source according to the second request.

26. An information receiving method in accordance
with Claim 25, wherein

the program code has a password used by the second information providing resource to determine whether or not transmission of the second information quoted is allowed and

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the

password.

27. An information receiving method according to
Claim 25, wherein

the program code has an encryption key to
encrypt the second request and

the second request includes information obtained
by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second
information according to the encryption key.

28. An information receiving method according to
Claim 25, wherein when the first information providing
resource is a first server and the second information
providing resource is a second server,

a client as the information user unit receives
the first information via the communication path from the
first server and receives from the second server the
second information quoted in the first information and
allowed for transmission.

29. An information receiving method according to
Claim 25, wherein when the first information providing
resource the second information providing resource are
implemented by a common server,

a client as the information user unit receives
the first information via the communication path from said
common server and receives from said server the second
information quoted in the first information and allowed
for transmission.

30. An information user unit for receiving
information via a communication path from an information

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providing unit, comprising:

means for receiving first information from a first information providing resource;

means for issuing a request to a second information providing resource for a program code;

means for receiving a program code from the second information providing resource;

means for generating, according to the program code, a second request to receive from the second information providing source second information quoted in the first information and for transmitting the second request to the second information providing source; and

means for receiving from the second information providing resource the second information for which quotation is allowed by the second information providing source according to the second request.

31. An information user unit according to Claim 30, further including means for displaying or outputting the first information and the second information simultaneously.

32. An information distribution method of distributing information from an information providing unit via a communication path to an information user unit, comprising the steps of:

transmitting first information from a first information providing resource to an information user unit;

issuing a first request from the information

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user unit receiving the first information to a second information providing resource;

transmitting a predetermined program code from the second information providing resource to the information user unit according to the first request;

generating, according to the program code, a second request to receive from the second information providing source second information quoted in the first information and for transmitting the second request to the second information providing source;

determining in response to the second request whether or not the second request is allowed according to at least identifying information (URI) included in the second request; and

transmitting the second information allowed from the second information providing resource to the information user unit.

33. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for distributing information via a communication path to an information user unit, the computer readable program code means, comprising:

means for receiving a first request from the information user unit receiving first information from a first information providing resource;

means for transmitting a predetermined program code to the information user unit;

means for receiving a second request to receive

second information quoted in the first information from
second information providing resource; and

means for determining in response to the second request whether or not the second request is allowed according to at least identifying information included in the second request.

34. A computer program product according to Claim 33,
wherein the determining means:

acquires from the second request an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information resource;

conducts retrieval through a database including a correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information providing resource and an identifier of first information in the first information providing source; and

allowing the second request when an identifier of the first information corresponds to an identifier code specified by the second request in the database.

35. A computer program product according to Claim 34,
wherein:

the predetermined program code has a password;

the second request includes an identifier code to identify the second information to be quoted and the password; and

the determining means further includes means for collating the password in the second request received from

the information user unit with a valid password.

36. A computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the determining means allows the second request when the password in the second request is a valid password and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

37. A computer program product according to Claim 36, further including means for frequently changing a password in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.

38. A computer program product according to Claim 34, wherein:

the program code includes an encryption key to encrypt the second request;

the second request includes information obtained by encrypting an identifier code to identify the second information according to the encryption key; and

the determining means further includes means for verifying to determine whether or not the second request can be decoded.

39. A computer program product according to Claim 38, wherein the determining means allows the second request when the second request can be decoded and the identifier code to identify the second information is included in the database.

40. A computer program product according to Claim 39, further including means for frequently changing an encryption key in a program code to be sent to the information user unit.